

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of
 salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of
 righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
 spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and
 praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand
 of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 148**SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant
 in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of
 all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

Cover: Presentation of Jesus at the temple (1963), fresco, by Dom Georges Sagat, Keur Moussa Abbey, Keur Moussa, Senegal. Photo copyright © Godong/Robert Harding Picture Library/Superstock. Used by permission.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
 ELCA-R